

the staff at the college had a voice in the future of the college. Their devotion to fair pay and workplace rules, security, academic freedom, and quality have created a tremendous benefit for both the faculty and the students, and have contributed to the strength of Henry Ford College. In their first year, AFT Local 1650 became the first college faculty bargaining unit in the country to go on strike; this action instilled a level of solidarity among staff members that exists even today. In 2013, the faculty bargaining unit negotiated a new community college contract with the Henry Ford College board of trustees. This agreement is widely interpreted as a model community college contract agreement in the country and has set the precedent for other educators throughout the country to pattern their agreements on. Through their efforts, AFT Local 1650 has preserved a tradition of shared governance for the common good and has ensured that teachers, faculty, and students will always have their voices heard by the College administration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Henry Ford Community College Federation of Teachers AFT Local 1650 and wish them many more years of success.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CONGRESSIONAL LEGACY OF MINNESOTA'S MARTIN OLAV SABO

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on March 13, 2016 former Minnesota Congressman Martin Olav Sabo passed away. For twenty-eight years Rep. Sabo represented Minneapolis, Minnesota and the surrounding suburban communities in the U.S. House. He was a giant of a legislator, an exceptional public servant, and a man I respected tremendously.

It was my profound honor to serve with Martin during the final six years of his career. He was liberal, smart, and his values reflected the very best of Minnesota's traditions and heritage. In Congress, Martin was reserved, but when he spoke the room went silent because everyone knew something worth hearing was about to be said. Martin was truly an experienced and astute legislator.

In 1960 Martin Sabo was first elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives at the age of 22. Over his eighteen year career as a state legislator he served three years as minority leader and six years as the Speaker of the House. He was elected to Congress in 1978 where he immediately was appointed a member of the House Appropriations Committee—an impressive and very significant status.

In the early 1990s Rep. Sabo served as the House Budget Committee Chairman and is credited with guiding the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1973 through the House. This historic legislation set the country on a course that resulted in a federal budget surplus.

Over his career Martin Sabo's work on behalf of Minnesota transformed our state and helped create the economic success experienced by the Twin Cities today. After Martin's

delivered funding the Hiawatha light rail transit line in Minneapolis, I had the privilege of working with Martin to secure the Central Corridor light rail transit line that has now connected downtown St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis. This infrastructure investment is transforming the Twin Cities and it all started with Martin Sabo's sage guidance and his ability to take ideas and turn them into tangible projects.

Martin was well known for being a quiet Norwegian. He loved baseball and especially the Minnesota Twins. He was also one of the kindest of souls.

When Martin left Congress at the end of 2006 we lost an effective and wise public servant. Now, Minnesota has lost the last of a generation of citizen legislators who was always respectful, civil, and true to his values. In other words, we've lost a good man.

My deepest sympathies go out to Sylvia Sabo, Martin's wife of fifty-two years, along with their daughters Karin and Julie, and their many grandchildren.

SKYWRITER MD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Skywriter MD for receiving the Innovative Technology Award from the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation.

The Innovative Technology Award is given to a company that is on the forefront of new and advanced technologies including the industries of aerospace, aviation, bioscience, energy, outdoor recreation and apparel, among others. As a startup, Skywriter specializes in electronic medical record (EMR) technology and provides a much-needed service for providers that have lost EMR documentation. The company developed a software tool that offers real-time communication and connectivity with virtual scribes, who serve as an extension of a physician's arm throughout the patient visit. Skywriter helps providers navigate the EMR, enter data and execute other tasks as directed. The user interface supports direct and indirect interaction throughout the patient visit, while non-intrusive presence of Skywriters enables a more personable patient-physician encounter.

Skywriter recently expanded its operations by adding a second location in Westminster's Westmoor Technology Park. The company leased 16,000 square feet and brought 120 jobs to Jefferson County. The company predicts to grow to 600 employees in the next three years.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Skywriter for this well-deserved recognition by Jefferson County EDC. Thank you for your contributions to the Jefferson County economy and community.

HONORING NORTH PANOLA HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable school, North Panola High School of Sardis, Mississippi and the great leadership it is under.

North Panola High School is a rural high school situated on the eastern edge of the Mississippi delta. For many years the high school has been a part of a school district that had been plagued by low test scores, violence and a negative school culture. The school district had been taken over by the state several times due to year after year of low test scores.

In July of 2011, Robert King, Conservator of the North Panola School District, hired Jamone Edwards as the principal of North Panola High School. Jamone Edwards, a graduate of Mississippi State University and The University of Mississippi, was the youngest principal the school had ever witnessed. He brought innovative ideas and worked tirelessly to increase teacher morale and create a positive school culture. Under his leadership and the staff's support, the school has made significant gains in the accountability model in which schools are rated. Prior to the new leadership, for many years the school was considered low performing and on academic watch. During his tenure, the school rose to Successful, which is equivalent to a C school. In the 2013–14 school year, Mr. Edwards led the school to its first ever High Performing Status, which is equivalent to a B school. This is a remarkable achievement as the school had never experienced such success and recognition.

Additionally, since 2010, the school has many successes to celebrate. The school's graduation rate was at an all-time low of 49 percent in 2010. Since that time, the graduation rate has risen to 73 percent for the 2013–14 academic school year. Currently, the high school is projected to have a graduation rate of 85 percent for the 2014–15 accountability rating. In addition, Algebra I and U.S. History subject area test scores have surpassed the state's average, and English II and Biology I state test scores are slightly trailing the state's average.

North Panola High School has also made significant improvement in preparing students for college and acquiring scholarships. In 2010, the mean ACT score was 14.8. Since that time, several students of North Panola High School have scored 20 or better on the ACT. In 2010, the high school graduating seniors had generated \$150,000 in scholarship monies. In 2014, the high school graduating class of approximately 80 students received in excess more than \$2 Million in scholarship monies creating more opportunities for our children to succeed in college and careers after high school.

In March 2015, North Panola High School received an award from the State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Carey M. Wright and the Mississippi Department of Education for closing the achievement gap between black and white students in the area of English/Language Arts and Mathematics. North Panola was one of the only predominantly minority high schools to be recognized